

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Amendment, which is submitted with a Request for Continued Examination, paragraph [0028] of the specification will have been amended to correct informalities in the language of the specification and to clarify that “VIMS” stands for “voice interactive media server.” This amendment reflects the Remarks in each of the Replies filed during prosecution of the present application (*see, e.g.*, Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed December 1, 2005, page 6; Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, filed May 8, 2006, page 5; Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, filed October 13, 2006, page 10). No new matter has been introduced by these amendments to the specification.

Also upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 19 will have been amended to correct informalities in the claim language and to more clearly define the invention, as well as to delete reference to an “advanced intelligent” network service, “service control point” and “subscriber.” Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

In the above-referenced Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1–20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KOCH (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0111269) in view of SPEENEY et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0099336). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection, at least for the reasons stated below.

Claims 1 and 8 recite analyzing an announcement identification to determine a remote customer location where an announcement corresponding to the announcement identification is stored. Similarly, claim 15 recites determining a remote customer

location where an announcement corresponding to the announcement identification is stored.

The Examiner admitted that KOCH does not disclose sending an announcement identification to a voice extensible markup language platform. The Examiner therefore relied on paragraph [0029] of SWEENEY et al. to teach an announcement identification for determining a remote location where an announcement corresponding to the announcement identification is stored. However, SWEENEY et al. discloses using a communication identifier to map to individual announcement fields (*e.g.*, audio files) within a single database (*i.e.*, database 170). It does not teach or suggest using an identifier to determine the remote location of the database itself (such as a web server, as recited in dependent claim 6). In other words, although SWEENEY et al. may enable identification of an announcement audio file once a database has been accessed, they do not teach or suggest obtaining the remote customer location at which the announcement is stored, based on an announcement identification.

Also, there is no proper motivation to combine the teachings of KOCH and SWEENEY et al., and there is no motivation articulated by the Examiner. KOCH is directed to a personal interactive voice response system having a web-based interface that enables a user to specify treatment of incoming calls based on responses by a calling party. *See* Abstract; para. [0009]. In contrast, the SWEENEY et al. reference is directed to a system and method for generating an announcement identifying the author of an incoming communication (*e.g.*, the calling party) to the contacted party (*e.g.*, the called party), by retrieving announcements identifying the caller from a network database 170. *See* Abstract; paras. [0015]. Unlike KOCH, SWEENEY et al. do not teach or suggest

interacting with the calling party, or otherwise enabling call routing and/or processing decisions. The Examiner has thus used impermissible hindsight in formulating the posited rejection of the claims, and further has not provided any objective evidence of why one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify KOCH with the teachings of SWEENEY et al.

Accordingly, for all of the reasons stated above, it is requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 1, 8 and 15 and provide an indication of their allowability.

With regard to claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20, Applicants assert that they are allowable at least because they depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1, 8 and 15, respectively, which Applicants submit have been shown to be allowable.

Further, dependent claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-20 are also believed to recite features which define further patentable subject matter of the invention. For example, claims 2, 9 and 16 relate to a voice interactive media server (VIMS) component, in addition to an IP component. The portion of KOCH relied upon by the Examiner (paragraph 36; Fig. 1) lacks these features, and merely describes an element having an ordinary IP component. Claims 3, 10 and 17 further recite encoding the announcement identification so that the IP component recognizes that the VIMS component will perform the processing of the announcement ID. Not only does KOCH lack the claimed VIMS component, but KOCH also lacks any encoding that indicates that a VIMS component should perform processing. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the

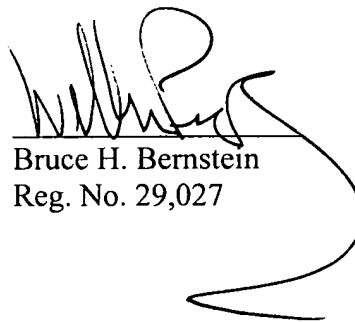
outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

In view of the herein contained amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of previously asserted rejections set forth in the Official Action of December 11, 2006, together with an indication of the allowability of all pending claims, in due course. Such action is respectfully requested and is believed to be appropriate and proper.

Any amendments to the claims, which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this Amendment or the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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